

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI NIACT IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EGEN, IN, CH

SUBJECT: INDIAN-CHINESE GNP COMPARISON

REF: NEW DELHI 15993

1. GNP AND POPULATION STATISTICS OF PRC TAKEN FROM ARTHUR ASHBROOK'S PAPER IN "PRC - AN ECONOMIC ASSESSMENT," JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE, MAY 18, 1972 AND LATER UPDATED BY ASHBROOK. GNP REPRESENTS PURCHASING POWER EQUIVALENT, AS MENTIONED IN PLANETARY PRODUCT, P. I UNDER 4A, BUT WITHOUT ADDITIONAL SUPPLEMENT, WHICH WOULD CONSTITUTE DOUBLE-COUNTING. FOR INDIA GNP DATA BASED ON GILBERT-KRAVIS METHOD NOT AVAILABLE UNTIL COMPREHENSIVE KRAVIS STUDY FOR WORLD BANK WILL APPEAR NEXT YEAR. IF BLOCK'S INFORMATION CORRECT, THIS KRAVIS RECALCULATION WILL INCREASE INDIAN GNP GREATLY (THIS IS PRIVILEGED INFORMATION UNTIL BOOK PUBLISHED). RESULT WOULD BE HIGHER INDIAN THAN CHINESE PER CAPITA GNP, WHICH IS UNLIKELY. BLOCK'S ADMITTEDLY ARBITRARY SUPPLEMENT OF 60 PERCENT FOR INCOME GROUP TO WHICH INDIA BELONGS (P. II, PAR. 6) KEEPS INDIA BELOW PRC IN PER CAPITA GNP, THOUGH DIFFERENCE MAY BE TOO SMALL. NEEDLESS TO ADD, GNP AND POPULATION ESTIMATES FOR BOTH COUNTRIES UNCERTAIN. KISSINGER

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